Progress of the Negro-1931.

New Orleans, La. Times-Picayune
November 27, 1931

Negro Advancement of Year Shown in Resume of Reports

Progress Noted in Annual Sermon of Rev. Dunn at Straight College

An optimistic address on the condition of negroes in the South was delivered by Rev. H. H. Dunn, field agent of the Straight College Alumni Association, at the annual Thanksgiving program held at Straight college Thursday, with Dr. Charles B. Austin, president of the college, presiding.

W. A. Daniel of New York, associate secretary of the American Missionary Association, and others were present for the annual program.

Rev. Dunn reviewed economic conditions prevailing in the United States and expressed a hope that prayers for world peace and improvement in the unemployment situation would be realized.

"Keen appreciation is felt by our people for the advances made by the Inter-Racial Commission during the year under the leadership of Dr. W. H. Alexander, who has just become head of Dillard university, in the fight against the evil of lynching and in its sustained efforts to obtain better educational facilities and housing conditions for the negro," Rev. Dunn said.

Thousands Jobless

"The 12,000,000 negroes in America have felt keenly the economic depression as thousands of them have been forced into idleness. But from the standpoint of self-help, the establishment of churches, securing homes and education, their progress has been distinctly marked.

"The negro has always been innately pious and intensely religious, and no phase of racial progress has been more marked than that of religion. Negro churches throughout the country number 42,000 with a combined membership of 4,200,000, with property valued at $200,000,000.

"Bishop R. E. Jones for the New Orleans area for the Methodist Episcopal church, said there are 1000 churches in this section with a membership of 100,000 and a property valuation, including educational institutions of $3,000,000. These churches last year contributed $70,000 for world service.

"A. C. Lewis, state supervisor for negro schools, reports there are 156,000 negro children enrolled in public schools of Louisiana with 2900 school teachers of the race employed and that the state spent $2,159,371 in operating these schools. Special attention was given to the teacher-training schools, which now number 40, including private institutions.

College Enrollment

"Southern university of Scotlandville, La., reports an enrollment of 750 students under 52 instructors. The state appropriated $125,000 for new buildings and maintenance at this institution. Leland college at Baker, La., has an enrollment of 247 students with 15 instructors. A branch of the National Negro Ministers' Institute has been established at this college during the year, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation.

"Negro education in New Orleans is likewise outstanding and aggressive. At Straight college this year 230 students are enrolled, most of them pursuing college courses. Twenty-five instructors are employed. Xavier university, under direction of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, has 540 enrolled, this year with 25 instructors. This college now has under construction one of the units in the $400,000 building program for its college group.

"New Orleans university has an enrollment of 410 students with 30 instructors, 250 of whom are pursuing work in college courses. New Orleans public schools for negroes show an increase this year of 3800 in enrollment. The sum of $66,000 was spent for constructing the new Dunbar school; $12,000 for the Leonidas school and some $28,000 for the repair of other negro schools, a total of $100,000.

Negroes Aided Here

"The charitable spirit and racial good will of New Orleans are shown in the Community Chest fund which supports 10 negro agencies and contributed last year $41,000 for their maintenance, and in the Christmas Gift Fund sponsored by The Times-Picayune, which contributed toys to 8000 needy negro children.

"The outstanding achievement in New Orleans during the year in negro welfare work was laying of the corner stone of the new Flint-Goodridge hospital at Danneel street and Louisiana avenue. This hospital when completed and equipped is to cost $350,000, and it is the first unit of the Dillard university project, which is to cost $2,000,000."

Rev. Dunn also reviewed educational efforts and welfare activities in other states of the South and voiced praise and appreciation of his race for the assistance given in upbuilding the standards and conditions of negroes of the country.

Lincolnton, N. C. Times
Thursday, August 20, 1931

NEGRO PROGRESS

Some interesting facts and figures concerning negro progress in the United States are set forth in excerpts by Literary Associates, Inc., from a recent work discussing whether the negro is an asset or a liability to the nation.

In 1866, negroes owned 12,000 homes in the United States; now they own approximately 750,000. Sixty years ago they operated 20,000 farms; today they operate at least 1,000,000.

In 1866, in actual wealth, negroes in America were worth about $20,000,000; now they are worth at least $1,508,000,000. More than that, 50,000 negroes own and operate successful businesses.

In 1866, 90 per cent of the colored population was illiterate. Today it is claimed that, in the country as a whole, not 10 per cent of American negroes are illiterate, judged by the accepted federal standards. Following their emancipation the negroes had not more than 15 colleges and normal schools; now they have 500.

In 1866, they had 100,000 students in public schools; now they have 2,000,000. In all schools half a century ago negro teachers numbered only 600; now they number 50,000. The value of property for higher education then was about $60,000; today it is worth more than $30,000,000. The annual expenditure for negro education then was $700,000; now it is more than $15,000,000.

Progress of the Negro - 1931

PROGRESS OF THE NEGRO.

Mr. H. W. Peet, Editor of the Far and Near Press Bureau, speaking on "Black America: Its Rise and Progress," at a recent meeting in London said that the new generation among the coloured people was acutely race-conscious. It was insisting not only on bare human rights, but on full rights as United States citizens. It was asking to be judged by its achievements. It was ambitious of full development, but unlike a previous generation, there was little animosity towards white people.

Mr. Peet pointed out how progress was being made despite the obstacles raised by discrimination imposed upon the Negro population with regard to travel and housing, and similar disabilities. "Everywhere there is the greatest keenness on education—elementary, vocational and higher," he said. "In the colleges alone there are now 20,000 men and women students. Illiteracy has decreased from 70% in 1880 to 22% in 1920, and it is likely that the new census will show that there is little difference between the black and white population. Of the million Negro farmers in the South 250,000 are freeholders, while there are flourishing Negro banks, insurance companies and business of all sorts, including beauty parlours, in which some Negro women have been especially successful. Negroes are represented in all the chief professions. In the cultural sphere especially they have arrived. The names of such men as Paul Robeson, Roland Hayes, Du Bois, Alain Locke and R. R. Moton are almost as widely known in this country as in America."

The speaker said that the obstacles to development placed in the way of the Negro were due both to social and economic causes. Comparatively few Negroes were admitted to Trade Unions. The result was that they were liable to be used for under-cutting and strike-breaking, leading to much bitterness. Relations, nevertheless, had very definitely improved during the past decade, but there was a risk that continued economic depression might create a danger of a regrowth of inter-racial bitterness.

NEGRO PROGRESS IN U.S.A.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR'S ADDRESS IN LONDON.

Sierra Leone News

"The American Negro is demonstrating to-day the same spirit as Disraeli did in England a century ago when Jews were restricted. Disraeli eventually got into the British Cabinet and Negroes are showing by their achievements that artificial restrictions and discriminations solely on account of their colour and race will not hold them back." This declaration made by Dr. Charles W. Wesley, the Negro Professor at Howard University, Washington, speaking on the Negro and American Industrialism at Friends House, Euston Road, London, on December 2nd.

Conditions in the United States have been entirely altered since the war, he said, owing to the Negro migration from the Southern and Northern States. The white workers **unfortunately do not see that the interests of labour are identical. The American Federation of Labour may issue high sounding declarations as beautiful as the declaration of Independence, but they do nothing to organise Negro labour. The Negro is forced to create his own great business in the nature of banking and insurance. To-day there are thirty-four great Negro Insurance Companies in the United States and seventy-three banks. Only the future can prove however, whether it is possible or good for America for separate social and industrial life based on colour to grow up side by side in the United States.**

Answering a question as to whether the American Negro represented the highest stage of development the Negro race had yet reached. Dr. Wesley said that he thought this was the case at the present day, but in the past some of the Negro peoples and empires in West Africa undoubtedly developed a social system and culture which were definitely in advance of other peoples such as the Jutes, Anglos or Saxons, living in the same era.

NEWS
NEWPORT, R. I.

JAN 5 1931

THE NEGRO PROGRESSES.

It is possible that historians of the future will look back upon the fifty years following the Civil war and view, as one of the most important developments of those years, the progress made by members of the Negro race. Certainly this development has been nothing less than wonderful. Something like four million Negroes were freed from slavery by Lincoln's proclamation in 1863. They were a pathetic lot. Homeless, illiterate, with morale shattered by hundreds of years of slavery, leaderless, with the hand of most white men against them, what prophet could have seen any good thing for them in the future?

Today one million Negroes own and operate their own farms, 1,178,000 are employed as farm laborers, 56,000 are skilled craftsmen, 3,500 are physicians and surgeons, all but ten per cent have become literate, 2,150,000 Negro children are attending the public schools; they have produced authors, poets, actors, singers, 48,000 teachers. Fifty are architects, 184 are engineers, 145 designers, inventors of draftsmen, and 20,000 clergymen. The Negro race sent 146,000 men to the Civil war and 368,000 to the World war, according to a recent statement.

The Negro is a good American. The average Negro is more "American" perhaps than the average white man. Most of the ancestors of the Negroes one meets today came to America many years before the ancestors of most white Americans. The Negro is intensely patriotic. He has resisted the efforts of all sorts of radicals to make him hate the white Americans, to make him turn against the United States. In spite of the harsh and unjust treatment which his white fellow-citizens have too frequently accorded him, the Negro has progressed and is progressing.

He should and must be encouraged. What race ever recovered so magnificently from misery as the Negro race has done? What race ever had such indomitable spirit under years of lashings and tortures? The Negro was beaten and maltreated, his loved ones wrested from him and sold as cattle, yet he kept his sweetness, crooned his inimitable spirituels, danced and sang, and maintained a religious faith which has never been surpassed. He is a good American and his white fellow-citizens must see that he has even-handed justice, all the time, in every corner of the United States.

NEWS
NEWPORT, R. I.

JUL 9 - 1931

THE NEGRO.

Not long ago a leading Negro journalist acknowledged with gratitude and thanksgiving that the press of the United States was eminently fair to the Negro and is, generally speaking, ardently championing the cause of equal treatment for all, regardless of color, creed or race.

This newspaper has for years stood up for the Negro, has pleaded that he be given a man's chance to make a living, to educate himself and his family, and to bring that family up as self-respecting and respected citizens. We are glad to note a marked improvement in the treatment accorded "our brother in black" the past few years.

We are particularly glad to read a praiseworthy editorial article in a recent issue of the New York Herald Tribune. The Herald Tribune calls attention to the fact that New York has come to be "to Negroes all over the world something of what Rome was to the Old Roman world and Athens in its heyday to Greater Greece." In recent years," the editorial goes on to say, "New York has been the home of many of those superb Negro artists who have written new chapters in the history of art in America—men like Charles Gilpin, who won his fame here in 'The Emperor Jones;' Richard Harrison, whose Lord God Jehovah has startled onlookers at 'The Green Pastures;' Countee Cullen and Langston Hughes and James Weldon Johnson and other poets and novelists, singers like Roland Hayes and Paul Robeson, scores of others known wherever the international language of art and music reach * * * * Harlem is the capital of a race and the home of a culture."

The earnest, upstanding and worthwhile Negro of today in the United States asks no special favors, wants no consideration not given to other men. He asks only a man's chance in a man's world. He is proud of his race, not ashamed of it, and this is good, for a race that has no pride is a race that is decadent. But the Negro doesn't flaunt his pride of race, any more than he hides it. He is a good citizen, is this Negro of the United States of 1931, and he has come further along the Road of Progress since he was freed from the terrible shackles of slavery than any race ever did in a similar length of time under comparable conditions.

This newspaper is glad to note the Negro's progress. It hopes that the day is not far distant when every man in this reputedly free country of ours may have a man's chance to make good in any field, giving and asking no favors, without regard to the color of his skin or the history of his forebears.

Jackson, Miss., News
Thursday, June 11, 1931

The Negro's Progress

By DR. EDWIN EMBREE, President of Rosenwald Foundation

* * *

One hundred and fifty-four years ago, two million and a half Americans won political freedom. Sixty-eight years ago four and a half million Americans gained personal freedom.

But no war could guarantee real independence. This had to be won by a century and a half of effort, until today America stands as one of the leading nations of the world. And no edict, in itself, could transform a great mass of people, long held in ignorance and dependence, into self-supporting and competent citizens. The freedmen, slowly and painfully, have had to win every kind of real independence—education, economic status, responsibility, self development.

Two fascinating dramas have been enacted on this continent—the achievement of world prestige and power by the new nation, and the struggle of the negro to find a satisfying and useful place in a progressive, modern civilization. Gratifying and astonishing is the achievement of two brief generations.

* * *

Today, colored children are in schools in practically equal proportion to the rest of the population. While facilities for this race are still inadequate, no aspect of education has advanced more rapidly during the past fifteen years than public schools for negroes in the South. The school which we are dedicating today is a token of this progress. It is the five thousandth school, aided in a single system, every one of these five thousand built within seventeen years, as integral parts of the public school systems of the state and counties.

* * *

Negro colleges and universities—formerly often merely high-sounding names—are now becoming realities. The United States Congress last year appropriated $1,250,000 to Howard University, as contrasted with the first congressional appropriation to this freedmen's college of $10,000 in 1879. Every southern state now supports, out of public funds, at least one state college for negroes. The annual income of eighty negro colleges and professional schools last year was $9,000,000. The regents of one of the historic state universities in the South have just raised the matriculation standards because, among other reasons, they were ashamed to have it known that a near-by negro college was enforcing requirements for entrance almost a full year higher than this university.

As workers, farmers and business men, negroes are steadily, if slowly, making their way. A recent survey by the United States Department of the Interior reports that the accumulated wealth of negroes in America amounts to two billion dollars and that 70,000 own or operate business enterprises.

In health, where the relation between the races is clear, we still have conditions which no civilized country can afford to permit. New Orleans reports a negro mortality of thirty per thousand, equal to the deplorable record of Calcutta. The negro death rate for the country as a whole is sixty-two per cent above the white rate, and that for tuberculosis is three times that for whites.

Happily there is evidence of renewed effort to improve negro health. Another generation may show as great progress as the past thirty-five years have recorded in public health generally. Certainly we cannot expect much further improvement in general health until the diseases of this great group of the population are brought under better control.

The problem of absorbing the race into the economic and cultural life of the nation is being mitigated by its steady decrease in proportion to the entire population. A century ago negroes numbered one-fifth of the nation; at Emancipation they were fifteen per cent; now their proportion has dropped to slightly below one-tenth. Recent migration has brought one-fifth of the negro group to the north and west. As time goes on, one may expect the race to be more and more evenly distributed throughout the nation.

* * *

While the race as a whole has been climbing the rough and precarious ascent of modern civilization, individual negroes are achieving distinction, judged by any standard. So we are beginning to realize the potential capacity of the race, and to understand that it has positive contributions to make—that, in fact, without the negro American life would lack much of richness and piquancy.

Only a decade or two age, Booker Washington and Paul Lawrence Dunbar were almost the only negroes recognized as national figures. Today, President Mordecai Johnson of Howard University, R. R. Morton of Tuskegee, and Benjamin Hubert of Georgia State College—to mention only a few—are recognized as among the educational leaders of the country, regardless of race. Dr. E. E. Just, the biologist, and Dr. Charles Johnson, in social studies, take high place among the scientific scholars. In philanthropy, one of the most significent facts of recent years is that James Burras, born a slave, left a fortune of $122,000 to his alma mater, Fisk University.

* * *

In music and the arts the negroes' gifts are well known. Not only has the race made America's distinctive contribution to music—"spirituals" and jazz—but such individuals as Roland Hayes, Paul Robeson, Rosamond Johnson and Nathaniel Dett have attained distinction as composers and artists. On the stage, Charles Gilpin, Florence Mills and the whose cast of the remarkable drama, "The Green Pastures," have brought fresh and vivid contributions to American expression. H. O. Tanner is one of the most distinguished members of the American colonly of artists in Paris, and Aaron Douglas and Augusta Savage, in painting and sculpture, are members of a growing school in America. James Weldon Johnson and W. E. B. DuBois are being pressed for leadership by an increasing number of young writers exemplified by Countee Cullen, Claude McKay and Langston Hughes.

* * *

The millennium has not yet arrived. Negroes still suffer from discrimination and neglect; also they still cause the South to suffer, because of their backwardness, ignorance, disease and poverty.

If America is to maintain her position in education, health and business prosperity, the condition of this large group of the population must be further improved. If it were true that this nation could not endure half slave and half free, it is equally true that a democracy cannot endure half educated and half ignorant; a community cannot maintain health with one half well and the other half—or even the other tenth—harboring contagious disease; and in modern industrial civilization, no nation can realize its potential wealth with one great group so ill-trained that it cannot render effective labor, or so poor that it cannot buy goods.

TAMPA, FLA.

Times

JUL 20 1931

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The showing made by these statistics should be an encouragement to the race to aspire to even greater strides in the coming years.

BUFFALO, N. Y.
TIMES

NOV 13 1931

NEGRO NEARS GREAT THINGS, LEADER AVERS

Pickens Cites Accomplishments Since Slavery as Good Omen for Future

By GORDON DAVIS
Times Staff Writer

Out of the depths of oppression that has kept the American Negro an "under man" for 300 years is springing a consciousness of talent that is destined to bring him to great things.

In this light William H. Pickens, field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, looks upon the future of his race. Tonight he will speak in the Michigan Avenue Y. M. C. A.

In the fluent tongue of the cultured man, Pickens, winner of the Phi Beta Kappa key at Yale, author of a number of books, orator and scholar, speaks of the upward struggles of his people with the complete objectivity of the imaginative mind.

Negro Has "Pathos"

To the Negro he attributes such things as "pathos, those things that make sentiment, and the emotional element that is characteristic of southern or tropical people."

And those factors, he believes, assure the Negro of great accomplishment in American art and science.

"Of course," Pickens continues, "in music, the Negro is supreme. God gave him all he needed for song, and he sang for 300 years before he was released from slavery. Without education, he still had music, and that music is distinctly his own.

"But his literature will not be so much his own. It will be literature with Negro feeling in it, but it will have the 'white people flavor.' That's because colored folks have had to study the white man's literature to develop theirs."

Make Great Strides

But even in the few generations since the release from slavery, Pickens can point to the tremendous advance made by his people with pride.

"Less than five per cent could read or write when slavery was ended," he asserts. "Now more than 80 per cent are literate.

"Just a few generations ago, Negroes had no taxable property. Now they own more than $2,000,000,000 worth in this country.

"They own 70 odd banks—and they don't go broke any oftener than white folks' banks. About 2,000,000 are in schools. There are 50,000 Negro teachers. Their doctors are among the very best."

Most of all, Pickens believes in the community of interests of both races—that the good of one reacts to the advantage of the other. His organization, the N. A. A. C. P., has fought the fight of the colored man in the highest courts of the nation to insure fair treatment and equal consideration.

Causes for Lynching

Lynching, he explains, has been one of the most serious problems. In cataloging all the lynching cases since 1885, it has been discovered that the basic cause does not lie in offense against the white race.

Rather, he explains, the cause is economic, founded on the fact that the Negro is economically the under man. Lynching did not start until the cessation of slavery.

The findings of an inter-racial commission of Atlanta, Ga., reveal that more than 50 per cent of the lynchings involved the hanging of men whose innocence was indicated, he declared. The commission itself, Pickens said, was composed of both white and colored men.

Back of it all is the tradition of the ages—300 years in which the Negro was held on a different plane entirely from that of the whites—300 years in which habits of treatment were formed that could not be broken overnight.

It is to lift the Negro to intellectual recognition and democratic equality that the N. A. A. C. P. is working. The association is a patron of the arts, a defendant of the oppressed, a stimulus to achievement.

On the basis of what it has done in the 22 years since its organization, Pickens lays his hopes for the future attainments of his race.

Progress in General - 1931

Robertsdale, Ala., American
Thursday, January 22, 1931

ADMINISTRATION OF GOV. GRAVES SHOWS PROGRESS

Accomplishments of Retiring Governor of State Are Numerous

With the close of the Graves administration, it is appropriate to briefly review some of its accomplishments, and the progress achieved during the past quadrennium. On a platform which pledged his best efforts to the conservation and development of the human resource of Alabama; emphasis was and physical health of the people, as the foundation for a prosperous state. The carrying out of of these policies has resulted in unprecedented progress during the past four years in education, public health and child welfare work. Another notable accomplishment of the administration now going out of office was the abolition of the convict lease system and the reorganization of the convict system of the state which resulted therefrom; while during this four-year period roadbuilding has been carried on in Alabama on a bigger scale than ever before.

Education

The past four years has witnessed a great forward movement in education in Alabama, which probably should be rated as the outstanding accomplishment of the outgoing administration. It was during these four years that practical application was given to the theory of equalization of educational opportunity—the theory which holds that a child born in one of the poorer agricultural sections of the state has as much right to an education at public expense as one living in the center where the wealth of the state is largely concentrated. Prior to 1927 most of the school money which the counties received from the state was apportioned on a per capita basis—so much for each child of school age. This state fund was entirely inadequate to provide a reasonable school term; and white the richer counties were able to supplement it from local taxation, the poorer counties with low values of taxable property were unable to do so. The inequality existing between different sections of the state was capita system of distributing school funds, no distinction was made, on account of race; a county received from the state just as much money for a colored child within its borders as for a white child. As a result counties where the bulk of the population was colored were able to provide amply for the education of their comparitively few white children; while other counties with a dense white population could not provide for them anywhere near on adequate school system.

Governor Graves and the legislature of 1927 set out to correct this situation, not by taking away anything from the more fortunate counties, which on the contrary have shared in the general educational progress, but by giving especial aid to the poorer counties unable to help themselves. One of many new educational appropriations voted in 1927 was an equalization fund of $900,000 per annum, to be used exclusively for providing more nearly equal school terms over the state. The average school term for the entire state has been increased thirteen days during the past four years; while many schools which were in session only four or five months in 1926 were in session seven and eight months last year.

During the past year there were 32,583 more children enrolled in school than enrolled in 1926. The actual gain must be greater than that number since the present reports are acknowledged to be more accurate than those in 1926.

Children are attending school much more regularly now than they did four years ago. This is shown by the fact that there were 57,032 more pupils attending schools daily last year than in 1926. This is an increase of nearly 14 per cent during the past four years.

When the aggregate days attended are considered we observe the greatest gain made in the amount of schooling which has been received by the boys and girls of the state. Last year the aggregate days attended was 15,787,753 greater than in 1926. This gain is equivalent to a term of 135 days for 102,132 children. Expressed in another way it is equivalent to the attendance of 17,022 children during every day of a 135 day term for six years.

Teachers are now receiving a higher average salary than they did in 1926. The gain during the past four years is 106 and has been due largely to the increased length of term.

New textbook adoptions were made during the quadrennium, reducing the number of books required and resulting in a saving of millions of dollars to the parents of school children.

Educational progress has not been confined to the common schools; on the contrary, the entire educational system from top to bottom has been tremendously strengthened and improved; and the state colleges and normal schools have entered upon a new era of development as a result of the greatly increased appropriations which they received for new buildings and for operating expenses.

Schools for Deaf and Blind.

A notable accomplishment of the outgoing administration was the manner in which it has provided for the state schools for the deaf and the blind, located at Talladega. At the beginning of the administration appropriations totalling $300,000 were provided for construction and repairing of buildings and equipment at these institutions, which have as a result functioned on a scale and with an effectiveness far ahead of anything in previous years.

Public Health.

Alabama's progress in public health work may be summed up in the fact that the state today stands at the top of the list of all sates in his field—a position attained during the past four years. Alabama has fifty-four counties with full-time county health units, engaged in prosecuting all phases of public health activities. The percentage of population enjoying the benefits of full-time county health service is 88.97 percent of the total population of the state—a ratio not equalled by any other state. The number of counties possessing county health units January 1, 1927, was thirty; twenty-four more have been organized during the Graves administration, leaving only thirteen unorganized. Progress in public health work during the past four years was made possible by the 1927 legislature; the appropriation for the central administration of the state health department was increased from $55,000 to $130,000.

Figures for 1929 established several new records of low death rates. Typhoid fever caused only 196 deaths for 1926 against 382 for 1926, or a decrease in the death rate from 15.1 for 1926 to 7.5 for 1929. There were no deaths from smallpox in 1929. It is the first year in 13 years that one or more deaths from smallpox was not reported. The death rate from tuberculosis was 85.7 per 100,000 population and was the lowest record since Alabama has had susceptible registration.

With the manufacture of diphtheria toxoid for immunization against diphtheria by the state laboratory begun in 1929, it became possible for counties to carry out immunizing campaigns against diphtheria similar to those carried out against typhoid fever. There was not time to secure results from immunization in 1929, but the figures for both cases and deaths would indicate a considerable decrease so far in 1930. In the next few years there should be a decrease in diphtheria similar to that secured in typhoid.

Child Welfare.

The past quadrennium witnessed remarkable progress in child welfare work in Alabama, the outstanding feature being the practical completion of county child welfare organization. Four years ago, only fourteen Alabama counties were organized for child welfare work; fifty two county child welfare units have been established since, leaving only one county unorganized. During the past four years a stronger child labor enforcement division has been built up a better institution program has been undertaken; and there has been built up a better institution program has been undertaken; and there has been manifest improvement in the service offered by the children's aid division in providing foster home care for children received. Alabama's progress in child welfare work has attracted favorable comment from nationally known experts. The legislature of 1927 increased the appropriation to the child welfare department from nationally known experts. The legislature of 1927 increased the appropriation to the child welfare department from $50,000 per annum to $100,000 for a two year period, and $125,000 annually thereafter.

Confederate Pensions

Pensions to Confederate veterans were doubled by the 1927 legislature the increase being from $75 to $150 per quarter. Large increases were also provided in pension payments to widows of veterans. The increase in Confederate pensions hit the general fund of the state during this administration for the huge sum of $3,730,056, this being the amount paid out in pensions over and above what was brought in by the one-mill soldiers tax. Much has been said recently about a deficit, but critics have failed to point out that the money has gone to relieve the necessities in extreme old age of the survivors of the armies of the confederacy. Pension payments will bear now less than half as many confederate veterans in Alabama as there were four years ago.

Agriculture & Industries

Agricultural laws were strengthened by the 1927 legislature, and the State Department of Agriculture has functioned with increased effectiveness. Important new legislation included provision on various soil types of the state, with a view to determining crop adaptability of various soils.

The last legislature also created the Alabama Industrial Development Board, to promote and advertise the industrial opportunities of the state. A large number of new industries have located in Alabama during the period.

Convicts & Law Enforcement

Abolition of the convict lease system and inauguration of a successful system of working convicts on the roads stands out as one of the major accomplishments of the Graves administration. Formerly, a large percentage of convicts were leased by the state to private business interests, and worked in coal mines and lumber camps. This system was very profitable to the state, but was denounced on humanitarian grounds, as a relic of barbarism. Instances of brutal mistreatment of convicts were brought to light, and besides it was contended that the priciple of leasing out human beings for profit was all wrong. Public sentiment demanded the abolition of the lease system, but there was hesitation on the part of those in power to face the loss to the state of the lease money and the task of finding other employment for convicts which would be turned back to the state with the lease business ended. Abolition of the lease system was an issue in Alabama for many years, and was repeatedly promised, decreed and brought the discredited system to an end. As a result, the state found on its hands approximately 1,250 convicts removed from under lease. Convict problems were augmented by the taking over by the state of county convicts, and by the great increase in prison population, which will be commended on below.

The problem was partly met by placing convicts on the roads. Eighteen road camps are operated, with a daily average of 1,480 convicts employed during the period June 1, 1929, to September 30, 1930. And, despite gloomy predictions to the contrary, this convict road work showed a net profit during the above period of $120,179.01.

Further employment for convicts was found through an expansion of the existing prison system, and the establishment of Moffett State prison near Atmore, built at a cost of $452,544.09, which includes cost of land, improvements, buildings and vestment cost per capita of prison-railroads. This prison, with an inmers below that of any other of the state's penal institutions, is a model establishment, where scientific farming is profitably carried on in a big way.

In spite of the loss of the lease money, there was a net profit on the operation of all state penal institutions during the quadrennium of $1,091,479.43. This net profit was arrived at after charging off all depreciation on buildings, equipment and machinery.

The administration of Governor Graves has been characterized by vigorous law enforcement; the governor has been prompt and active in directing the suppression of lawlessness in all forms. He has appointed jury commissioners who believed in law enforcement, and has granted comparitively few paroles. As a result of better law enforcement and

curtailment of parcles, there has been a great increase in prison population. During 1926-27 the convict department had a daily average of 3,094 state convicts and 115 county convicts, total 3,209; for 1929-30 the figures were 4,370 state and 664 county convicts, total 5,034, an increase of 1,825, or more than 50 percent.

Roadbuilding

The Graves administration has done practically as much roadbuilding as had been done by the state altogether prior to this administration; in fact, on the higher type roads, the figures show that much more has been accomplished during the the past four years than had been done during all preceeding years.

Conclusion

In the closing months of the Graves administration, certain critics have pointed out that more money has been spent during this administration than during any that went before it. It is obvious that millions of dollars worth of new school buildings, increased teachers salaries doubling Confederate pensions, better public health, etc., could not be attained on the same expense which prevailed before the past quadrennium has spent $22,000,000 more for schools than was spent before—naturally this could not be done without spending $22,000,000 more, and of course this additional revenue had to be raised through taxation. It should be noted that Governor Graves went into office pledged to increase appropriations and also to increase taxation: he did not promise the impossible feat of increasing the one without the other. He did promise that there would be no increase in property taxes, and that needed new revenue would be obtained by "hitching the big mules" to the tax wagon, in other words by levying upon big business and corporate interests which it was claimed had hitherto escaped paying a fair share of the tax burden. This promise has been carried out to the letter. There has been no increase in property taxes in the past quadrennium; such increase as has occurred in property tax payments has been due solely to the natural rise in the values of property, the tax rate has remained unchanged, and in some of the poorer agricultural counties here has been an actual decline in property valuations and consequently tax payments. New revenue needed for schools, public health, etc., was provided through new tax levies on railroads, water power companies and other phases of big business, through an extension of tonnage and severance tax on coal, iron and other minerals; and through a sales tax on cigars and cigarettes which has brought into the taxpaying class thousands who hitherto enjoyed the benefits of government without contributing anything to its support. Four years of progress in public activities have been supported without increasing the taxes of the farmer or home owner, and the distribution of taxation has been more nearly equalized than ever before in the history of the state.

HERALD
San Jose, Cal
APR 11 1931

Progress of American Negroes

AMONG the many constructive foundations of American millionaires is the Rosenwald fund which distributed last year $2,000,000 for the uplift of American negroes. The annual report shows that they are steadily forging ahead. In the north and west the proportion of colored children attending the public schools is practically equal to that of white children. In the south over 2,000,000 are in schools and colleges. The graduates are finding their way into gainful occupations. Property statistics show that 700,000 own their own homes and 232,000 own farms. More than 70,000 own business enterprises.

American philanthropists are helping to retrieve the costly blunders committed by the northern politicians who in the reconstruction period sought to reduce the whites to subjection and place state and local government in the hands of a backward race just emerged from slavery. There is race friction and will be for many years. Nevertheless relations are improving. Many councils have been set up at which representatives of the two races face each other around the same table and talk over their differences. This is a long step in advance from the Ku Klux Klan.

750,000 NEGROES OWN THEIR HOMES

Remarkable Progress Of Race In South Told Graphically By Dr. Norton

FIFTY YEARS OF PROGRESS
BY R. R. MOTON
Principal of Tuskegee Institute

TUSKEGEE, April 13—At that time the Negro population of the United States was 6,500,000 of whom 90 per cent were found in the South; today conservative estimates place this number at approximately 12,000,000, of whom 85 per cent still remain in this section; to put it more graphically, the Negro population of the United States today equals the total population of the South when Tuskegee was established.

At that time Negroes owned 10,000,000 acres of land, today they own 22,000,000 acres; then there were 10,000 Negro proprietors of business establishments, today they number about 70,000. Property holdings of the Negro in 1881 represented a total value of seventy million dollars; in fifty years this has increased to two and one half billion dollars.

At that time the Negro's illiteracy was rated at 75 per cent; today it is approximately ten per cent; then the enrollment of Negro children in the public schools was 41 per cent of the school population of the race; today it is 68 per cent. At that time the number of Negroes graduating annually from college was less than 100; last year the total was 2,160. In 1881 there were two public high schools for Negroes; their number has increased to more than 500.

At that time the valuation of school property for secondary and higher education for Negroes was $5,000,000; today it is $50,000,000; then the value of public school property alone for Negroes was approximately $2,500,000; today it is $98,500,000; and the annual appropriation of public school funds for Negroes in the fifteen Southern States amounts to more than $45,000,000.

At that time 120,000 Negeroes owned their own homes; today 750,000 own their homes.

In that same period of time the Negro death rate has dropped from over 30 per 1,000 to 18 per 1,000.

In 1881 there were 30,000 Negroes in the professions, today there are 100,000; school teachers in that day numbered 14,000; there are today 50,000.

TUSKEGEE'S SHARE

These are the more obvious indications of a change, not only in the status of the Negro race itself, but also progresively in the relations between the two races, which has been a dominant factor in the development of this section of the country where the ratio of population between the races is highest. These gains have been most encouraging to all those interested in the progress of the Negro and particularly to those who have given of their time, their means, their labor, and their sympathy toward the advancement of this race. It has been the proud privilege of Tuskegee Institute to contribute a large share toward the development which is creditable alike to the Negro, the South, and to the Nation.

For its contribution in this direction, the Institute has won an established place in the confidence of the Nation and is becoming an increasning influence in shaping the educational and social policies of other countries with respect to the needs of retarted groups within their borders.

This record has been achieved not without struggle and controversy, but we have arrived at a time when its methods are universally accepted as consistent with the soundest educational theory, and its program for racial advancement is regarded as thoroughly adapted to the practical considerations of a busy world.

During this period of time te general popular mind has changed so as to view it no longer as a private aspiration but a public necessity; and the practical type of education which has been fostered at Tuskegee Institute has come to be regarded as not alone suitable for the development of the Negro, but fundamentally necessary for the masses of the population of every race and in every country.

There is a growing opinion throughout the world that Tuskegee Institute stands today as the exemplication of the soundest principles of social advancement that have yet been evolved. I quote from a letter of the President of the United States, requesting Tuskegee Institute, in cooperation with other institutions, to conduct an educational survey of Haiti:

"I would appreciate it greatly if you representing Tuskegee Institute could undertake to exhaustively investigate and make recommendations as to the educational system in Haiti. I know of no institution so well equipped as yours to give a constructive program in the whole question."